Allotment of STD/ISD to Eligible Persons

7933. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4483 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STD/ISD public telephone to the applicants with registration number SP-158 Main under Gurgaon Main Exchange in Haryana have not been allotted while applicants upto registration number SP-214 have since been cleared; and

(b) by when, the said applicants are likely to be allotted the STD/ISD public telephone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Forestation Targets under the National Forest Policy

7934 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Forest Policy of 1988 stipulated that one-third of the total geographical areas of the country should be under forest cover;

(b) so, the progress achieved so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some States have lagged behind in achieving the target; if so the names of the States and the reasons for non-fulfilment of the target; and

(d) the measures contemplated to expedite the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the State of Forest Report, 1993 19.5 per cent of the geographical area of the country is under actual forest cover.

(c) The target mentioned in part '(a)' above is for the country as a whole. It is a fact that the actual area under forest and progress in afforestation varies from State to State for various reasons such as biographical conditions, availability of land etc. At present, the following States/Union Territories have forest cover over 33 per cent.

(i) Arunachal Pradesh.
(ii) Manipur.
(iii) Meghalaya.
(iv) Mizoram.
(v) Nagaland.
(vi) Sikkim.
(vii) Tripura.
(viii) Andaman & Nicobar.
(ix) Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

(d) To increase the forest cover, a massive programme of afforestation social and farm forestry under the 20-Point Programme is pursued vigorously with people's participation. During the Seventh Plan period, 8.9 million hectares were planted up against the target of 8.2 million hectares. The coverage of afforestation/tree plating activities is being increased during the Eighth Five-Year Plan.

Comparative Pollution Level in India

7935. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI AAS MOHAMMAD:
SHRI AJIT P. K JOGI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the level of pollution in India as compared to other countries:

(b) whether some industrial units, vehicles and indiscriminate and illegal denudation of forests are the main causes of pollution;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate any comprehensive policy for conservation of environment and for checking the pollution;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the report "Global Pollution and Health" prepared by World Health Organisation (W.H.O) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the levels of suspended particulate matter (SPM) in respect of Delhi Calcutta and Bombay rank 4th, 6th and 13th respectively among 54 cities of the World. With respect to sulphur dioxide, these cities rank 27th, 18th and 37th respectively, among 41 cities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have formulated comprehensive policies for conservation of environment and checking pollution. These include Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution and the National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development. The Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollutants. The National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development sets out priorities on conservation of natural resources such as land and water prevention and control of atmospheric pollution including noise pollution and industrial development by using a mix of promotional and regulatory steps.

(e) Does not arise.

वन-रहित क्षेत्रों में खनन-कार्य पर से पाबंदी हटाना

7936. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात और अन्य राज्यों में पर्यावरण के नाम पर ऐसे क्षेत्रों में भी खनन-कार्य पर पाबंदी लगा दी गई है, जहां वन नहीं हैं ;

(ख) क्या सरकार इन नियमों में परिवर्तन करने का विचार रखती है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) (ख) और (घ) राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों और अभयारण्यों जैसे संरक्षण क्षेत्रों के अलावा खनन कार्य पर देश में कहीं भी प्रतिबंध नहीं है । इसकी अधिसूचनाओं के उपबन्धों के तहत आने वाले पारिस्थितिकीय रूप से नाजुक क्षेत्रों में विनियमित किया गया है । जिनमें दून घाटी, अरावली की पहाड़ियां तटीय विनियमन क्षेत्र, मुरूड-जंजीरा और लवासा शामिल हैं । इसके अलावा, परियोजना आयोजना में पर्यावरणीय सरोकारों को शामिल करने की दृष्टि से सरकार ने 4-5-94 को यथा-संशोधित दिनांक 27-1-94 की पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव मूल्यांकन अधिसूचना जारी की है, जो अन्य बातों के अलावा, विशिष्ट सीमा से ऊपर खनन परियोजनाओं पर भी लागू होती है । चूंकि इन नियमों को हाल ही में अधिसूचित किया गया है इसलिए इनमें कोई परिवर्तन करने का विचार नहीं है ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।